

REMARKS:

Reconsideration of the rejections set forth in the Final Office Action mailed March 19, 2007 and entry of the present amendment is requested because Applicants respectfully submit that the Amendment places the application in condition for allowance or in better form for consideration on appeal.

In response to the Final Office Action, claims 15, 41, and 42 have been canceled without prejudice, and claims 1, 17, 21, and 43 have been amended. Thus, claims 1, 3-9, 11-14, 17-19, 21-29, 31-40, and 43-45 are currently pending.

In the Final Office Action, claims 1, 3, 6-8, 14, 15, 17, 21, and 42 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,198,971 ("the Leysieffer reference").

First, Applicant appreciates the Examiner's indication that claims 4, 5, 9, 11-13, 18, 19, 22-29, and 31-40 are allowed and that claims 41 and 43-45 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 1 has been amended to include all of the limitations of allowable claim 41. Allowable claim 43 has been rewritten in independent form, including the limitations of claims 1 and 42. However, the phrase "the one or more acoustic transducers comprising piezoelectric material" has been deleted from claim 1 and omitted from claim 43, since Applicants submit that the recited features are not necessary for novelty and nonobviousness. Claims 17 and 21 have been amended to depend from allowed claim 18.

Turning to the rejections based upon the Leysieffer reference, claim 1 has been amended to include all of the limitations of allowable claim 41, and therefore should now be allowable. In

addition, claims 3, 6-8, and 14 which depend from claim 1, and claims 17 and 21, which now depend from claim 18, should also now be allowable. Finally, claims 15 and 42 have been canceled without prejudice. Accordingly, the rejections based upon the Leysieffer reference should be withdrawn.

Based upon the foregoing amendments, all of the pending claims in the present application should now be allowable. It is respectfully submitted that all rejections have been overcome by the above amendments. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance of the application is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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